

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-9 (Cancelled)

Claim 10 (New): A microorganism having all the identifying characteristics of *Escherichia coli* DSM 15181 or a mutant derived therefrom, wherein said mutant contains an inactivation or deletion in *dadA* (the gene encoding D-amino acid oxidase).

Claim 11 (New): The microorganism of Claim 10 which has all the identifying characteristics of *Escherichia coli* DSM 15181.

Claim 12 (New): A microorganism having all the identifying characteristics of *Escherichia coli* DSM 15182 or a mutant derived therefrom, wherein said mutant contains an inactivation or deletion in both *dadA* (the gene encoding D-amino acid oxidase) and *dsdA* (the gene encoding D-serine hydratase).

Claim 13 (New): The microorganism of Claim 10 which has all the identifying characteristics of *Escherichia coli* DSM 15182.

Claim 14 (New): A process for preparing a D-amino acid, comprising:  
culturing in a suitable medium *Escherichia coli* in which the *dadA* gene is, or the *dadA* and *dsdA* genes are, inactivated or deleted, and  
recovering a D-amino acid.

Claim 15 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said D-amino acid is D-aminobutyric acid.

Claim 16 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said D-amino acid is D-serine.

Claim 17 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said D-amino acid is D-methionine.

Claim 18 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said D-amino acid is D-tryptophan.

Claim 19 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said D-amino acid is D-phenylalanine.

Claim 20 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said *Escherichia coli* has all the identifying characteristics of DSM 15181.

Claim 21 (New): The process of Claim 14, wherein said *Escherichia coli* has all the identifying characteristics of DSM 15182.